

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 6-15 are pending in the application. Claims 3-5 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 15 are in independent form.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,941,494 to Garrido ("the '494 reference"). In response, Applicants have cancelled claim 16. Thus, the rejection of claim 16 is moot.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the '494 reference be withdrawn.


Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, and 6-15 are allowed.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 30, 2008
Attorney Docket No: 19365-101518



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